

whom he lost, that motivated him in his extraordinary career of public service.

TOM LANTOS' story was also the story of an immigrant. He said he was an American by choice. Coming to the United States through an academic scholarship, he worked hard and made the most of the opportunities that only America can offer. He earned degrees from the University of Washington and the University of California, Berkeley, and taught economics for 30 years before running for Congress in 1980, winning against a Republican incumbent in a Republican year.

As a Member of Congress, TOM LANTOS raised the profile of human rights in every corner of the world from China to Tibet and from Sudan to Burma. One of the first things he did when he came to Congress was to found the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983. As the only Armenian-American serving in the House, I'm especially grateful for TOM's leadership as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last year when he worked to secure the passage of legislation recognizing, at long last, the Armenian Genocide of 1915. His voice in the face of strong opposition from many fronts helped secure the passage of this resolution through the committee.

Although Congressman LANTOS' expertise was in world affairs, he took care of his constituents in California's 12th Congressional District. For 15 years I've had the privilege to serve with him, representing one of the most remarkable areas of our country. We worked together on efforts to preserve our local environment and improve transportation.

Congressman LANTOS' efforts are clearly visible throughout his congressional district. He worked to expand BART service at San Francisco International Airport and to create a water ferry service from San Mateo County to San Francisco. He led the effort to acquire Rancho Corral de Tierra for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and we worked together to fund a visitor's center for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary at the Fitzgerald Marine Center.

More important than the legacy of his work is the legacy of his family, especially the love of his life, his wife Annette; his daughters Annette and Katrina; and his 18 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. They always represented the greatest achievements of his great life.

America was blessed by the life of Congressman TOM LANTOS. May he rest in the peace that he worked so hard to bring to others during his entire life.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN R.
COCHRAN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. John Cochran, Business Development Executive of Bank of America Card Services. John will retire this year from his position as a leader in a company with the largest credit card portfolio in North America, having over 40 million customers amounting to \$190 billion in high-interest loans.

During his time at Bank of America, John was responsible for all business development

endeavors for Bank of America Card Services. Prior to the January 2006 merger with Bank of America, John was the chief operating officer of MBNA Corporation, which he also helped to found in 1982. Under John's direction as head of Business Development, MBNA became a pioneer in issuing so-called "affinity" credit cards—cards endorsed by alumni associations, interest groups, professional organizations, clothing manufacturers, sports teams, and others. Cards emblazoned with the logo of a much-loved alma mater or team proved to be appealing to many consumers and, as a result of John's ingenuity, MBNA enjoyed runaway growth. Within 10 years, MBNA had become one of Delaware's largest employers, and remains so today under the Bank of America name. John is also the person behind Bank of America's 3 major affinity relationships: the National Education Association, Ducks Unlimited, and the American Automobile Association, all 3 of which will celebrate 27 years of successful marketing agreements with Bank of America this year.

John was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended Loyola College, where he currently sits on the board and has served as its chairman. Though not a Delaware native, John contributes to the State of Delaware in more ways than just furthering private sector development. John is a member of the board of directors of the Delaware Council for Economic Education. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Delaware Public Policy Institute.

I acknowledge Mr. John Cochran for his many years of service and numerous contributions to Bank of America, the credit card industry, and the State of Delaware. I am confident that as he enjoys his retirement with his wife and children, and cheers for his beloved Baltimore Orioles, he will remain an active and influential member of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 13, I was detained and unable to vote on rollcall 46. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

IN MEMORY OF GLADYS JOY
KENNEDY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Gladys Joy Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy was a devoted and active member of the Pasadena community.

Gladys Joy Kennedy was born on June 1, 1965, the beloved child of Thomas Foster Kennedy, now deceased, and Leola Sudduth Kennedy of Pasadena, California. Gladys, a twin, was the ninth of ten children. A Pasadena area resident all of her life, she attended Cleveland Elementary School, McKinley Junior High School, and Blair High School.

Gladys was active in many churches in the Pasadena area, including Holy Deliverance Church and Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church. She was a proud and devout member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Altadena, where she was an enthusiastic and devoted volunteer. Gladys also volunteered extensively for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Pasadena Branch, and assisted with numerous local political campaigns.

Gladys Joy will be greatly missed, and I extend my sincere condolences upon the untimely and very sad loss of Gladys Joy to the extended Kennedy family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY
DOUGLAS MEADE

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Douglas Meade and pay tribute to his 43-year public service career to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Douglas Meade, the son of a coal miner, grew up on a farm in Wise County, Virginia. He started his public service career in 1964 as a social worker in Wise County. In 1970 after receiving a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University, Douglas worked briefly for the Virginia Department of Social Services in Richmond, Virginia, before returning back to his native roots in southwest Virginia.

For the past 36 years, Douglas has been the director of the Washington County, Virginia, Department of Social Services. His office administers and provides annually over \$40 million in services to citizens of Washington County. In fiscal year 2007–2008, the Washington County Department of Social Services will touch the life in some way of over 16,000 county citizens. Over the years, Douglas has served on numerous State and local task forces and committees that focused on improving the quality of life and opportunities for rural Virginians. Currently he is involved in several southwest Virginia regional initiatives that are focused on improving the job skills, employment opportunity, health care access, and educational attainment of area citizens.

Through his advocacy and public policy development work, Douglas has worked extensively with the Virginia General Assembly and has done some work at the Federal level. He has been recognized as a leader in his field and has received numerous awards. In 1994, Douglas received the President's Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives for his work.

Douglas' rural upbringing has helped form his strong work ethic, values and community spirit. His warmth and eternal optimism brighten the lives of his family and friends.

In 2005, Douglas graduated from the nationally renowned University of Virginia's Sorenson Political Leadership Institute. After retiring from a 43-year career in social services, Douglas has not ruled out running for a political office or continuing, in some way, his commitment to public service.